

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 EB-07 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 027803

R 090322Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6536

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 0480

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MSG RECD ACTION BANGKOK FROM UDORN IS REPEATED  
TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL UDORN 125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: THAI-LAO BORDER TRAFFIC AT NOGN KHAI

1. SUMMARY: THE THAI-LAO BORDER AT NONG KHAI IS OPEN TO BOTH PASSENGER AND CARGO TRAFFIC. THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED (300 - 400) LAO COME TO THAILAND DAILY TO SHOP AND TO VISIT FRIENDS. THAI BUSINESSMEN ARE BEGINNING TO SEND GOODS TO VIENTIANE AND TO IMPORT SMALL QUANTITIES OF LUMBER FROM LAOS. THAI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE DEPORTED TWO LAO REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NONG KHAI IMMIGRATION OFFICE, OPEN FROM 0800 TO 1700 IS PROCESSING NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED LAO VISITORS A DAY. PEOPLE COME TO SHOP AT THE TOWN'S STORES, LOOKING FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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BASIC ITEMS LIKE SALT, FISH SAUCE, AND DETERGENT. THAI

AUTHORITIES DO NOT PERMIT INDIVIDUALS TO CARRY GASOLINE ACROSS THE RIVER INTO LAOS. THERE IS A THAI REQUIREMENT THAT LAO WHO USE A BORDER CROSSING PASS IN LIEU OF A PASSPORT REMAIN WITHIN 25 KILOMETERS OF NONG KHAI. WHILE RELATIVES (MANY LIVING IN THE LAO REFUGEE CAMP ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN). FEWER THAN TEN OF THE RECENT VISITORS

HAVE REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO REMAIN AS REFUGEES AND NOT RETURN TO LAOS. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER REQUIRE TRAVELERS, THAI AND LAO ALIKE, TO RETURN HOME BEFORE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE DAY THEY CROSS.

3. THAI BUSINESSMEN, WARY OF THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS (PDRL), ARE MOVING CAUTIOUSLY TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS IN VIENTIANE. MERCHANTS ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH FORMER LAO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES TO EXPLORE THE PROFITABILITY OF ESTABLISHING EXPORT TRADE IN THE SAME BASIC HOUSEHOLD COMMODITIES LAO TRAVELERS ARE BUYING IN NONG KHAI.

4. THE OPENING OF THE BORDER TO CARGO TRADE HAS PERMITTED THE THAI TO IMPORT SMALL QUANTITIES OF LUMBER WHICH WERE PURCHASED BEFORE THE BORDER CLOSURE BUT, UNTIL NOW, WERE STORED IN LAO WAREHOUSES. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THAI BUSINESSMEN, UNABLE TO GET GUARANTEES SROM THE PDRL, ARE RELUCTANT TO RESUME THE ONCE FLURISHING CROSS-RIVER LUMBER TRADE.

5. CROSSING POINTS AT SRI CHIENGMAI AND THA BO (NONG KHAI PROVINCE) REMAIN CLOSED. SMUGGLING CONTINUES TO BE AN ANNOYANCE TO THE RTG. IMMIGRATION OFFICER IN NONG KHAI SAID THAT POLICE INTERCEPTED A BOAT LOAD OF LIQUOR CROSSING INTO THAILAND ON THE NIGHT OF JAN. 5. HE ALOS REPORTED THAT A FEW REFUGEES CONTINUE TO CROSS INTO THAILAND BUT THAT AUTHORITIES ARE BEGINNING TO DEAL MORE STERNLY WITH ILLEGAL ALIENS. CONSULATE REFUGEE AFFAIRS ASSISTANT REPORTED THAT WO LAO WHO ENTERED THAILAND AT THA BO ON JAN. 6 WERE TAKEN TO NONG KHAI CITY BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AND DEPORTED TO LAOS. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED OF REFUGEES BEING OFFICIALLY DEPORTED

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BY THE RTG.  
HAMILTON  
UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

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